



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Ying-wei Lin et al.  
FOR : **A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
SEGMENTING AN IMAGE USING A  
COMBINATION OF IMAGE  
SEGMENTATION TECHNIQUES**  
SERIAL NO. : 09/737,515  
FILED : December 15, 2000  
ART UNIT : 2621  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : D/A0647  
XER 2 0391

**RECEIVED**  
APR 11 2001  
Technology Center 2600

Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2518  
April 5, 2001

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicants submit the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicants are aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 5, 2001.

By: Roseanne Giuliani  
Roseanne Giuliani

Date: 4-5-01

Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the enclosed patents require no further explanation.


Consideration of the appropriate paragraph(s) indicated below is respectfully requested:

- ☐ **WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING:** Under § 1.97(b)(1), this information disclosure statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 24-0037.
- ☒ **BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION:** Under § 1.97(b)(3), this information disclosure statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 24-0037.
- ☐ **BEFORE FINAL ACTION/WITH FEE:** Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$ as required by §1.17(p). The required fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 24-0037.
- ☐ **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT:** Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Dreher", written over a horizontal line.

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Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**LETTER**

The Examiner is hereby advised of co-pending U.S. Patent Applications, Application Number 09/203,870 (filed 12/02/1998) and Application Number 09/379,306 (filed 08/23/1999). The subject matter contained in these co-pending U.S. Patent Applications, Application Number 09/203,870 and Application Number 09/379,306, may be related to the above-identified application, and thus may be relevant to the subject matter of the instant application.

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By: Roseanne Giuliani  
Roseanne Giuliani

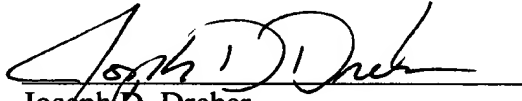
Date: 4-5-01

These co-pending applications are not to be construed as prior art. By bringing these co-pending applications to the attention of the Examiner, the Applicant does NOT waive any confidentiality concerning these co-pending applications. 35 U.S.C. § 122 (1999); see Medical Laboratory Automation Inc. v. Labcon Inc., 500 F.Supp. 54, 58 n.5 (N.D. Ill. 1980), aff'd, 670 F.2d 671 (7th Cir. 1981). Furthermore, if said co-pending applications should not mature into patents, said co-pending applications should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 (1999) and 37 C.F.R. 1.14 unless otherwise authorized by the applicant/assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

Date: April 5, 2001

  
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